

Resource Contact: Policy & Technical Support
Section

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References: Chapter 90.54 RCW Chapter 90.03 RCW
Chapter 90.46 RCW Chapter 90.44 RCW
Chapter 90.14 RCW

POLICY ON WATER RIGHTS FOR RECLAIMED WATER

Purpose: To facilitate and define how to use reclaimed water.

Application: This policy applies to all Water Resources staff when reviewing requests for generation and use of reclaimed water.

Definition: Reclaimed water means effluent derived in any part from sewage from a wastewater treatment system that has been adequately and reliably treated, so that as a result of that treatment, it is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur.


1. Ecology encourages water users to consider the use of reclaimed water.

Water users are encouraged to find beneficial uses for reclaimed water. The water available for reclaimed use is the quantity described on the water right document. Water treated and discharged by a wastewater treatment facility that does not hold the original water right may be used by that facility, provided there is a written agreement with the water right holder.

2. A water right application is not required for the use of reclaimed water when that water is used under the same conditions as the existing water right.

3. A change application for use of reclaimed water is required when the place, purpose, or time of use does not conform with the conditions of the existing water right.

A change will be considered if impairment will not occur and it is in the public interest to allow. Reclaimed water is an alternate and supplemental supply, and the underlying water right is not affected.



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